

Message Text

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CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

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SUBJ: 30TH UNGA: LAW OF THE SEA

1. HONDURAS FOREIGN MINISTER GALVEZ' STATEMENT AT THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ON LAW OF THE SEA: QUOTE: HONDURAS IS A COUNTRY BORDERED BY TWO OCEANS WHICH CONTAIN IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES THAT CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE ECONOMIC AND FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF OUR PEOPLE. FOR THAT REASON THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE UTILIZATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA, WHICH WERE INITIATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN A RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED ON 17 DECEMBER 1970 ARE VITAL TO US.

2. FOR THIS SAME REASON WE HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE DISCUSSION OF MOST ITEMS AND QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE LAW OF THE SEA. IT HAS BEEN OUR CONSTANT BELIEF THAT THE ONLY FEASIBLE AGREEMENT THAT CAN BE REACHED SHOULD BE BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOGNITION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE VARIOUS MEM-

BERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT OR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, AND ON THE NEED TO RECONCILE THE INTERESTS OF STATES.

3. AT THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, HELD IN GENEVA FROM MARCH TO MAY OF THIS YEAR, TO DOCUMENTS OF THE CARASCAS MEETINGS, CONTAINING PROPOSALS ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE SEABED AND OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION, WERE DISCUSSED. AFTER FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THOSE DOCUMENTS, AND AFTER DISCUSSING PREVIOUSLY UNEXAMINED ISSUES, THE COMMITTEES OF THE CONFERENCE REQUESTED TO PREPARE A SINGLE UNOFFICIAL TEXT FOR NEGOTIATIONS COVERING THE ITEMS DISCUSSED BY THOSE COMMITTEES.

4. WE APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON RIGHTS AND CLAIMS WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING STATES AND THE MAJOR MARITIME POWERS. PROGRESS IN THIS AREA NOTWITHSTANDING, WE BELIEVE THAT WE COULD ADVANCE MUCH FURTHER IF WE WERE TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE BODY CAPABLE OF BRINGING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES OF THIS KIND. THAT BODY SHOULD BE MADE UP OF SPECIALISTS CLOSELY ACQUAINTED WITH THE MEANING OF FREEDOM OF THE SEAS, WITH THE CLAIMS AND RIGHTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, AND WITH THEIR PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES.

5. WE ARE DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT THERE MUST BE AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME GOVERNING THE OCEANS AND RECOGNIZING THE LEGAL EQUALITY OF STATES, ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL CO-OPERATION. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BAN THE RULE OF FORCE AND THE ECONOMIC HEGEMONY WHICH USUALLY VICTIMIZES THOSE COUNTRIES LACKING THE POWER FREELY TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS OVER THE USE OF THE SEA AND ITS RESOURCES. END QUOTE.
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